

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION ON AGING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

BARTLETT SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Craft at 9:40 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Callen, Cardella, Griffith, Craft

Excused Absent: Thomas

Resigned: Breaker

Staff: Wand

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Callen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Griffith provided the inspiration:

"If evolution really works, how come mothers only have two hands?"

Ed Dussanet

And from Goethe

"Treat people as if they were what they ought to be, and you help them to become what they are capable of being"

4. ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Callen moved, Commissioner Cardella seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of September 9, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Griffith moved, Commissioner Cardella seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of August 12, 2008 with changes. The motion carried unanimously.

Item 6: Merla Wilson and Leilani Kimmel should be listed as “Applicants for Commission on Aging” rather than “possible applicants” as both have already submitted their applications to the City Clerk.

6. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

- Leilani Kimmel-Dagostino, Applicant for Commission on Aging
- Phillip Ross, Torrance Public Library

7. SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council

Commissioner Griffith reported that a very comprehensive traffic study was recently completed. Traffic signal synchronization is also being studied.

With sadness, Commissioner Griffith announced the passing of former City Council member Gene Drevno. She indicated that the Torrance Unified School district last week dedicated the “Gene Drevno Community Day School” and also shared that the funeral mass for Mrs. Drevno was beautiful.

Commissioner Griffith discussed housing for seniors.

Commissioner Cardella discussed her involvement on the Strategic Plan Committee, noting that seniors were not mentioned specifically in the plan.

Some general needs identified include:

- Need for additional affordable rental housing
- Need to reach out to culturally diverse members of the community
- Expand opportunities for diverse population/programs
- Provide education programs for all ages (crime prevention, etc.)

B. Housing

Commissioner Griffith discussed parking requirements for senior housing projects.

C. Health

Commissioner Griffith discussed the color code door hangers that will be distributed to seniors for use in an emergency (red indicating that one needs help; green indicating that individual is safe).

She also announced an upcoming workshop, "Golden Guardian," scheduled for November 14, 2008.

Commissioner Callen announced that those over the age of 50 should receive an immunization to prevent shingles.

D. Transportation

Commissioner Griffith reported that she recently took the train to a meeting in Los Angeles and had a relatively pleasant experience.

Bus transportation was also discussed.

E. Cable

Commissioner Callen reported that he had recently covered a Veterans celebration event held at Coleman Court. He also discussed upcoming segments will include:

- History of Miramar Park
- POW/MIA Remembrance Day

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Cardella reported on Focal Point Statistics for the month of August:

- Total number of calls received – 147
- Total number of documented calls – 43
(Note: 20 follow up phone calls were made to clients)
- Miscellaneous calls – 104
- Total number of walk-ins – 33

Of the 43 documented calls,

- 30.2% were in regard to Housing
- 26% were for In-Home Services and
- 16.2% were questions about Transportation

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

No report

8. ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Wand announced that a letter of resignation was recently received by Commissioner Charles Breaker, who has chosen to resign due to ill health. The Commission will plan a luncheon for Commissioner Breaker within the next month. Mrs. Wand indicated that the two vacancies on the Commission will be filled in January. Mrs. Wand also announced that Jim Mills, Transit Manager, will make a presentation to the Commission at their October meeting.

The topics addressed will be: "Upcoming City Council Items from Transit Department" and "Update on Transit Ambassador Program." Mrs. Wand indicated that the Commission's Annual Report should be presented at the October meeting.

She distributed copies of the Community Development Department's Major Project report.

Commissioner Griffith requested that Mrs. Wand contact the City Clerk to suggest that consideration be given to filling Commission vacancies twice a year, perhaps in January and July.

Guest Phil Ross announced that the City of Torrance has been approved to receive funding through the "Transforming Life After 50" grant. He also provided an update on the renovation currently taking place at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library. He distributed flyers advertising upcoming events sponsored by the Torrance Public Library.

Guest Leilani Dagostino announced that Mayo Scotto will be declaring the month of September as "Life Insurance Awareness Month" in Torrance. She discussed unscrupulous agents who are targeting seniors and indicated that seniors have protection through the State of California.

12. ADJOURNMENT TO NEXT MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. to the next meeting on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at Bartlett Center.

Approved as Submitted October 14, 2008 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
